

Caecum maori, new name for *Caecum solitarium* Oliver, 1915 (non Meyer, 1886) (Caenogastropoda: Rissooidea Gray J.E., 1847)

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Abstract

The new name *Caecum maori* is proposed for *Caecum solitarium* Oliver, 1915, a Recent species described from the Kermadec Islands (New Zealand), primary homonym of *Caecum solitarium* Meyer, 1886, from the Eocene of Vicksburg (Mississippi, USA).

Riassunto

Viene proposto il nuovo nome *Caecum maori* in sostituzione di *Caecum solitarium* Oliver, 1915, una specie attuale descritta per le Isole Kermadec (Nuova Zelanda), omonimo primario di *Caecum solitarium* Meyer, 1886 specie dell'Eocene di Vicksburg (Mississippi, USA).

Keywords

Mollusca, *Caecidae*, *Caecum*, new name, homonymy, Kermadec Isl., Eastern Pacific, marine, Recent

Abbreviations used

CM = Canterbury Museum - Christchurch (New Zealand)

LACM = Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County - Los Angeles (U.S.A.).

Introduction

In our opinion, *Caecum solitarium* Oliver, 1915, is a valid species, despite the holotype is lacking in the septum and a piece of the tube (Raines, B. & Pizzini, M. 2005). Meyer, (1886) described a fossil species as *Caecum solitarium* on material from Eocene of Vicksburg (Mississippi, USA).

Also *Caecum solitarium* Meyer, 1886, quite different from *Caecum solitarium* Oliver, 1915, is a valid species but it was described 29 years before. The name *C. solitarium* proposed by Oliver must be then considered a primary homonym and cannot be used, on the basis of ICZN (1999), articles 52 (1, 4) and 57.

Results

Taxonomic account

Superfamilia RISSOOIDEA Gray J.E., 1847

Familia CAECIDAE Gray J.E., 1850

Genus *Caecum*

Caecum maori nomen novum

pro *Caecum solitarium* Oliver, 1915 (non Meyer, 1886)

Derivatio nominis

The name is dedicated to the Maori people and it is used here as a noun in apposition.

Type material

Caecum solitarium Oliver, 1915, holotype - CM M2867.

Type locality

Sunday Island (Kermadec Isl.).

Original description

«Shell curved, of nearly uniform diameter throughout, anteriorly obliquely truncate. Septum much exerted, hemispherical, making an abrupt shoulder at the junction of the shell. Sculpture: Shell smooth, but showing under the microscope regular concentric growth-lines. Colour white.

Length, 2.7 mm. Diameter at anterior end, 0.4 mm; at posterior end, 0.3 mm.

Habitat. - A few dead shells dredged near Sunday Island."

Geographical distribution

Oliver (1915) described *Caecum solitarium* from the Kermadec Islands, while Rehder (1980) dubitatively extended its distribution to the Easter Island. As pointed out by Raines & Pizzini (2005), *Caecum solitarium* sensu Rehder, 1980 (= *Caecum rehderi* Raines & Pizzini, 2005), is distinct from *C. solitarium* Oliver, 1915, and does not occur in the Easter Island.

Remarks

In 1885, Meyer found in the Eocene of Mississippi (lower Vicksburgian) a species of *Caecum* consisting of the second stage and the beginning of the third one, but he quoted it only as *Caecum* sp. One year later, he described that species as *Caecum solitarium* Meyer, 1886, with the tube "... smooth except concentric rings of growth...".

Dall (1892) suggested that *Caecum solitarium* Meyer, 1886 was the second growth stage of another annulated fossil species, *Caecum alterum* Meyer, 1887, also described from the Eocene of Mississippi (Jackson, USA). This assumption was based on the observation that the beginning of the third stage of *Caecum solitarium*, still attached to the second one, was annulated as in *Caecum alterum*. Nevertheless, Meyer's original description and figure clearly show that *Caecum solitarium* has a smooth tube. Furthermore, the previous assumption of Dall opposes the drawing of Meyer (1886).

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